

REMARKS

Rejections

Non-Statutory Double Patenting

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,311,157. Claims 1-6 also stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 and 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,710.

Without admitting to the validity of the rejection and without admitting that any finding or determination with respect to the validity of the 6,311,157 or 6,704,710 patents will affect the validity of any patent issuing from the present application, Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer for each of 6,311,157 and 6,704,710, and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of claims 1-6.

Amendments

To the Claims

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to more particularly point out what Applicant regards as the invention.

New Claims

New claims 7-29 have been added to claim additional aspects of the invention claimed in claims 1-6 and to claim the subject matter of claims 1-6 in different claim formats to broaden the scope of protection for the invention. Because claims 1-6 are not rejected over art and are thus contain allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits claims 7-29 are also allowable.

Related Patents

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the following U.S. Patents: 5,384,892, 5,390,279 and 5,613,036. Each of these patents has the same inventorship and the same assignee of the present application, and the same filing date as the effective filing date of the present application.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-29 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-8300 x309.

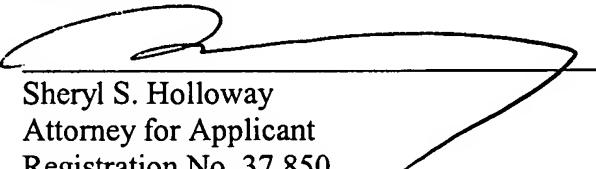
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

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Sheryl S. Holloway
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,850

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300 x309